October 22, 2004

Response to Docket No. FAA-2004-19411; SFAR No. 105

Proposed Reservation System for Unscheduled Arrivals at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport

The Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics, Bureau of Air Operations is responsible for operating and maintaining an air transportation services program which provides executive and emergency air transportation services to State Officials, Departments, Agencies and other authorized users on a 24 hour, seven day a week basis.

In the past year the IDOT, Division of Aeronautics has operated 127 flights into Chicago's O'Hare Airport in support of State of Illinois business.

In and for the most efficient performance of State business it is often necessary to operate on a tight time-schedule utilizing the most efficient and advantageous airport and ground transportation system. In as much as the Chicago O'Hare Airport is strategically located near many State facilities and business areas it is an invaluable asset in the performance of State business. As in many governmental activities, the best and necessary use of time cannot be constrained by firm time-schedules. The restriction of a thirty minute slot, (if available) would not normally work into the needs of the State operation.

While the impact of our operation into O'Hare Airport is minimal, the slot reservation system may have a significant impact on the State's ability to conduct necessary business. We are respectfully requesting consideration and relief from the proposed rulemaking in the form of allowing flights operated by and for the State of Illinois to be accommodated above the reservation limit as noted in the text of the NPRM.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Young

Chief, Bureau of Air Operations